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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - EAST ASIA SECURITY - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Wednesday morning's Yomiuri front-paged a report from Singapore on the disclosure of a draft of a declaration to be adopted at the APEC summit to be held in Hanoi November 18-19. The daily said the draft includes a proposal for the 21 APEC members to study the creation of a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP).

¶1. "East Asia Security: Strengthen Japan-China Strategic Dialogue" An editorial in the moderate Tokyo Shimbun commented (11/8): "Japan was unable to be involved in the process of getting the six-party talks restarted, as the decision was the result of behind-the-scenes diplomatic maneuvering by the US and China. While firming up relations with the US, Japan also needs to enhance strategic dialogue with China. As the country that feels most threatened by North Korea, Japan moved quickly to impose sanctions on Pyongyang. Nonetheless, Japan appears to have been left out of the loop.... Immediately after his inauguration, PM Abe visited China and South Korea and exhibited a stance of attaching greater importance to Japan's Asia diplomacy. However, we are forced to conclude that Japan has not yet been able to restore the relations of trust with China and other nations that were damaged by Koizumi's five years in office.... Efforts should be made to realize a visit to Japan by Chinese leaders early next year and to further develop bilateral strategic dialogue."

SCHIEFFER